

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1 (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) An apparatus for carrying a vehicle spare tire comprising:

a tire support capable of movement through a plurality of positions about a horizontal axis;

at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support; and

material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug, wherein said material is capable of supporting the tire throughout the plurality of positions through which said tire support can travel about the horizontal axis.

14. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the circumference of the material is extent at least about 240°.

15. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the circumference of the material is extent up to 360°.

16. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the circumference of the material is extent 360°.

17. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the circumference of the material is extent between at least 240° and 360°.

18. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the circumference of the material is extent to meaningfully connect with the interior opening of a tire rim.

19. (New) An apparatus for carrying a vehicle spare tire, having a spare tire support capable of movement through a plurality of positions about a horizontal axis between a raised position wherein the spare tire is located above ground and a lowered position wherein the spare tire substantially contacts the ground, said apparatus comprising:

said tire support for mounting a tire having a rim with an interior opening;

at least one lug for securing the tire to the tire support;

material extending past the lug which supports the tire in a manner to permit the tire to rotate and be aligned with the lug.

20. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said support is provided throughout the plurality of positions through which said swing arm can travel about the horizontal axis.

21. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the material provides support throughout at least a major portion of the interior opening in the rim.

22. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the circumference of the material is extent at least about 240°.

23. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the circumference of the material is extent up to 360°.

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24. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the circumference of the material is extent 360°.

25. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the circumference of the material is extent between at least about 240° and 360°.

26. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the circumference of the material is extent to meaningfully connect with the interior opening of the tire rim.